

Children and Families Together

Sacramento County's Story and the Case for a Waiver Extension

Title IV-E of the Social Security Act is the federal funding source for child welfare services. In order to allow states and other jurisdictions to test innovative approaches to improve child and family well-being, the federal government created the Title IV-E Waiver Demonstration Project (Waiver) which offers flexible funding. For example, with the Waiver, children and families can receive services before children are removed from their home, potentially preventing removal altogether, and, if they are removed, funds can be used after reunification to ensure stability and prevent future involvement. Sacramento County Child Welfare Services and Sacramento County Juvenile Probation entered into the Waiver demonstration project in September 2014.

What we have gained with the Waiver

CHILD WELFARE WAIVER IMPACT 2014-2018

By the Numbers:



Reduction in number of monthly average entries into foster care



Reduction in number of children in care



Reduction in recurrence of maltreatment



Reduction in re-entries to foster care



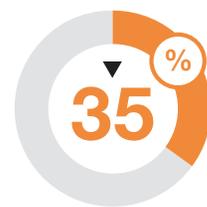
Improved permanency for children in foster care 2 years or more

PROBATION WAIVER IMPACT 2014-2018

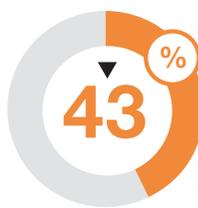
By the Numbers:



Reduction in number of system involved youth in out of home care



Reduction in Detention Facility population



Reduction in caseload sizes



Only 2% of youth receiving Waiver services end up being removed from the home

CHILD WELFARE:

- Child abuse prevention, home visitation and aftercare services.
- Intensive family finding and kinship support services
- Strengthened practices that include engagement, Child and Family Team meetings, and inclusion of child, youth and family voice

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Through the Waiver, we have been able to fund services and supports to keep children and families together, rather than waiting for them to enter the much more costly and often times trauma-inducing child welfare system.”

Michelle Callejas, Director, Sacramento County Child Welfare

PROBATION:

- Expanded early-intervention, evidence-based services provided to the entire family at their home.
- Services include Wraparound, Functional Family Therapy, and Multi-Systemic Therapy – all proven to help keep families together and prevent youth from being removed from the home.

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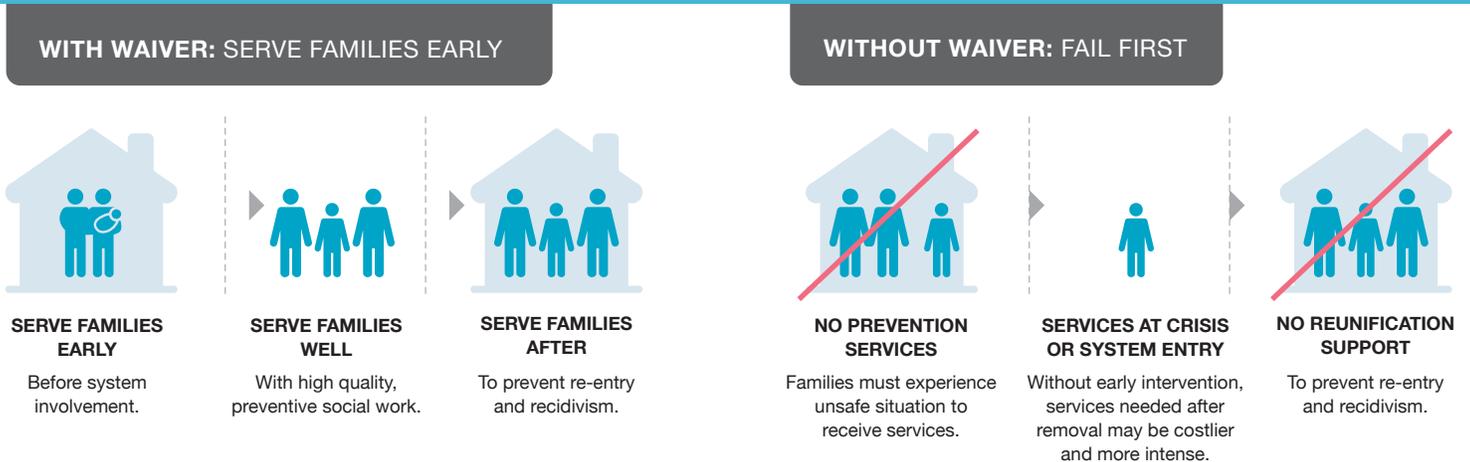
Sacramento's entire youth serving system has achieved significant positive outcomes due to the increased flexibility and innovative approaches afforded by the Waiver project. As the only State that included Probation we can demonstrate that the investment has paid off as evidenced by the reduction in our detention and out of home care populations.”

Lee Seale, Chief Probation Officer

What we will lose

The Waiver and its flexible funding for **primary prevention**, which diverts families from the child welfare and probation system altogether, is scheduled to end in October 2019. The loss of funding will likely reverse the positive outcomes and impact we have achieved.

Child Welfare and Probation would no longer be able to **intervene early** to prevent system involvement, and would be going back to the old approach of **failing first** before providing families the support and services that the Waiver allowed.



Why this matters:

More children and families will be removed from their homes without the waiver, and enter into the much **more costly child welfare and probation placements**.



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Not only were we supported with information on what to expect and helped through the process, we also received emotional support through individual and group sessions to be able to take care of our grandchild.”

Iris, grandmother, who received family finding and kinship services to support fostering her grandchild



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With the help of Wraparound and Sacramento Probation, I was able to get a job and graduate from high school. The Court has now terminated my probation and sealed my record.”

Joe, an 18-year-old who, with his family, received Wraparound services in lieu of incarceration and removal from the home

And beyond **cost**, each child who enters child welfare or probation system translates into an increased risk of:

- Poor educational outcomes
- Trauma and related compromised health outcomes
- Deeper system involvement (criminal justice)